



187A 3416

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SHINICHI HIRAMOTO et al.

Serial No.: 10/616,771

Filed: July 10, 2003

For: BAG-MAKING AND PACKAGING  
MACHINE EQUIPPED WITH A  
STOCKER APPARATUS

Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: --

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97(b) and 1.98, Applicant for the above-identified application hereby submits legible copies of the following relevant arts as required by 37 CFR 1.98(b):

- A. U.S. Patent No. 4,451,249 issued to deBin on May 29, 1984;
- B. French patent publication No. FR 1 334 578 published in France on August 9, 1963;
- C. German patent publication No. DE 199 35 065 published in Germany on September 28, 2000;
- D. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 2002-36392 published in Japan on February 5, 2002;
- E. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 2001-48342 published in Japan on February 20, 2001; and
- F. Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (Kokai) No. 2002-41122 published in Japan on February 8, 2002.

Of the above-listed prior art, prior art A-C are cited in the Search Report which

was completed on October 27, 2003 by the European Patent Office for European Patent Application No. EP 03 01 5770 which is a counterpart application to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the Search Report is enclosed.

Though prior art B and C cited in the Search Report is not in the English language, the Search Report is written in English and the degree of relevance is indicated therein by way of the markings As along with the explanation of such marking. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP Section 609, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for these non-English language prior art is satisfied, and an English concise explanation thereof is omitted herein.

Prior art D-F are not in the English language, but the concise explanation of relevance of these prior art is incorporated in the specification pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). Nonetheless, each of these publications is accompanied by English language abstract.

In view of the above, it is therefore respectfully requested that the Patent Office make a record of these relevant arts and consider them.

Respectfully submitted,  
KODA & ANDROLIA

By 

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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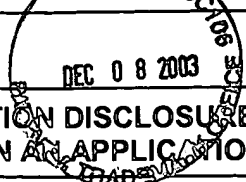
William L. Androlia

Name

12/5/2003

Signature

Date

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|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| FORM PTO-1449   | Dock t Number (Opti nal)<br>187A 3416 | Application Numb r<br>10/616,771 |
|  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION<br/>IN AN APPLICATION</b><br><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | <b>Applicant</b><br>Hiramoto et al.   |                                  |
|   | <b>Filing Date</b><br>7/10/2003       | <b>Gr up Art Unit</b><br>3721    |

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE      | NAME  | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|                     | 4,451,249       | 5/29/1984 | deBin |       |          |                               |
|                     |                 |           |       |       |          |                               |
|                     |                 |           |       |       |          |                               |
|                     |                 |           |       |       |          |                               |
|                     |                 |           |       |       |          |                               |
|                     |                 |           |       |       |          |                               |
|                     |                 |           |       |       |          |                               |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE      | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION<br>(YES/NO) |
|--|-----------------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|-------------------------|
|  | FR 1 334 578    | 8/9/1963  | France  |       |          |                         |
|  | DE 199 35 065   | 9/28/2000 | Germany |       |          |                         |
|  | JP 2002-36392   | 2/5/2002  | Japan   |       |          |                         |
|  | JP 2001-48342   | 2/20/2001 | Japan   |       |          |                         |
|  | JP 2002-41122   | 2/8/2002  | Japan   |       |          |                         |
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### OTHER DOCUMENTS *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.